

Minutes from Leadership Council meeting March 13, 2017

Those in attendance: Members: Julie Rule, Susan Mason, John Miller, Jamie Grayson, Shari Albright, Dennis Toalson, Al Minnis, Michael Hundt, Kirby McDaniel, Andrea Hunter, Melissa Spencer. Staff: Steve Breon, Jessica Richard, Nancy Liston and Lori Bogart.

We opened with a brief devotion and faith reflection time.

Minutes from the Feb. 13 meeting were approved, the correction of “now,” not “no” in reference Colleen coordinating hospitality. Motion to approve by Dennis, second by Jamie.

Finances

- Expenses and revenue are tracking well.
- \$3.47 million taken in from capital campaign from pledges, leaving a \$1.9 million balance.
- \$11,800 taken in from unpledged/plate contributions.
- Budget process starting soon.

Building Update

- Joe is still on-site for punch list repairs/tweaks.
- Parking lot top asphalt and finish striping, likely by 3/17.
- Landscaping and sod coming 3/14, other details by 3/17.
- Decision to NOT offer outdoor/community recycling. Rather will pay for weekly inside collection. Recycling is still a ministry of the church for good Earth stewardship, but other community options exist.
- Fire windows/doors will be done by 3/26.
- Rain flow pattern will be studied down Maple Lane.

New Business

A Way Forward for UMC

- John and Steve attended a gathering of church leaders in the south central jurisdictional conference last wk.
- Topic was gathering insight from local churches re: human sexuality in UMC: appointment and ordination of homosexual clergy, options for officiating same-sex wedding ceremonies and using church facilities for same-sex weddings.
- Steve highlighted the history of homosexuality in UMC.
- Steve and John provided highlights from Rev. Tom Berlin on “Compatibilists”
 - + Progressive Non-Compatibilist: ordain & appoint any clergy, and all marriage okay in UMC. Can’t imagine any other way.
 - + Progressive Compatibilist: prefer to ordain & appoint any clergy, and all marriage okay in UMC & but understand differing views and believe there is room for all.
 - + Traditional Compatibilist: prefer not to ordain nor appoint homosexual clergy. Prefer traditional marriage in UMC & but understand differing views and believe there is room for all.
 - + Traditional Non-Compatibilist: Can’t accept nor envision ordaining, nor appointing homosexual clergy. Only accept traditional marriage in UMC & doesn’t see room for other way.
- Likely a special called session in 2019 to focus on this issue outside of General Conference
- 31 UMC appointees are studying this worldwide. Consider world view and cultural membership, esp. in African nations. Africans are largest area of growth, and have 30 – 35% representation in UMC membership.
- Steve sees PWUMC as living our mission to be welcoming and including for all, including evangelism to everyone. He doesn’t see PWUMC in either of the Non-Compatibilist categories.

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Strategic planning

- Julie brought up our past conversations to have staff set purposeful, mission-driven, measurable goals.
- The PWUMC budget is set to match mission, and now that the Worship Center is open, what's next?
- At a future meeting, we'll revisit these topics to set the vision for the year ahead.
- Melissa asked how PWUMC markets to families. Through PDO, Sunbeams, etc.? Jessica responded.

Annual Conference

- Steve reported that Missouri UMC Annual Conference is in Springfield June 8 -12.

Adjournment with prayer by Julie.

Next meeting is Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Mason, secretary